

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
 - if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
 - (i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer comprising the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer at a concentration below the saturation level at 25° C, and an estrogenic compound; and
 - (ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 1 to 15 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness in the range of 10 to 110 µm;
 - if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
 - (iii) the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
 - (iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 1 to 15 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness in the range of 10 to 110 µm,wherein the drug delivery system is physically stable when stored at or above room temperature.
2. (original): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the progestogenic compound is a steroidal progestogenic compound and/or the estrogenic compound is a steroidal estrogenic compound.

3. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer of the core is a copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate.
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented): A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
 - if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
 - (i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer, the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and the core comprising a progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
 - (ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 14 to 28 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness of 70 to 250 μm ;
 - if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
 - (iii) the progestogenic compound, the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer at a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and an estrogenic compound; and
 - (iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, the copolymer containing 14 to 28 wt% vinylacetate, the skin being permeable for both compounds, and the skin having a thickness of 70 to 250 μmwherein the drug delivery system is physically stable when stored at or above room temperature.

6. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the progestogenic compound is etonogestrel.
7. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 6 wherein the release on day 21 of etonogestrel of the drug delivery system is 80 µg / day or more.
8. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the estrogenic compound is ethinyl estradiol.
9. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the system is ring-shaped.
10. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system consists of one compartment.
11. (previously presented): A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system is a drug delivery system for intravaginal use.
12. (cancelled)
13. (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a drug delivery system according to claim 9 comprising the steps of:
 - (i) producing a medicated homogenous polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer core granulate, comprising a progestogenic and an estrogenic compound;
 - (ii) co-extruding the core granulate with a polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer skin granulate, resulting in a copolymer fiber comprising a core covered by a skin; and
 - (iii) assembling the fibre into a ring.
14. (original): A method according to claim 13, wherein the core granulate in step (i) is lubricated with a lubricant.

15. (previously presented): A contraceptive kit or kit for hormone-replacement therapy comprising the drug delivery system according to claim 1.

16. (previously presented): A combination preparation to provide contraception whilst simultaneously to treat a sexually transmitted disease comprising the drug delivery system according to claim 1.

17 - 19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented): A method of contraception in a female patient, the method comprising:

- (a) positioning a drug delivery system of claim 1 within the vaginal tract of the patient;
- and
- (b) retaining the system within the vaginal tract for approximately 21 days.

22. (new): A drug delivery system according to claim 3, wherein the skin has a thickness in the range of 20 to 100 μm .

23. (new): A drug delivery system according to claim 3 wherein the skin has a thickness in the range of 30 to 70 μm .

24. (new): A drug delivery system according to claim 3, wherein the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer of the skin is a copolymer containing 1 to 14 wt% vinylacetate.

25. (new): A drug delivery system according to claim 3, wherein the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer of the skin is a copolymer containing 1 to 12 wt% vinylacetate.

26. (new): A drug delivery system according to claim 5, wherein the skin has a thickness in the range of 110 to 250 μm .
27. (new): A drug delivery system according to claim 5, wherein the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer of the skin is a copolymer containing 16 to 25 wt% vinylacetate.